

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /068 W
-----081549Z 073051 /44

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2507
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, US, NU
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESS COVERAGE

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS RE NICARAGUAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE RAISED BY RIDING ARTICLES IN NEW YORK TIMES. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT CENSORSHIP IS NOT BEING USED TO KEEP PUBLIC IN THE DARK REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. GON ORGAN, NOVEDADES, FRONTPAGED ON MARCH 5 AMB. SEVILLA SACASA'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE BASED ON UPI REPORT OF HIS COMMENTS FOLLOWING MEETING. IN AN EDITORIAL IN SAME EDITION RIDING WAS TAKEN TO TASK FOR YELLOW JOURNALISM PLAYING UP TO U.S. MAN-IN-THE-STREETS CONCEPT OF "BANANA REPUBLICS". EDITORIAL SAYS RIDING SAID NOTHING NEW, I.E., THAT HASN'T BEEN SAID BY JACK ANDERSON, THE CARDENALS (NICARAGUAN PRIESTS, ERNESTO AND FERNANDO CARDENAL, OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST-LINING COHORTS (E.G. HONDURAN RECTOR OF UNAH REINA AND CORRALES OF COSTA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RICA). THESE PERSONS ARE SIAD TO NOT CARE ABOUT GON EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF NICARAGUAN PEOPLE AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH GON CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GOALS OF WELL-BEING AND HAPPINESS. ANOTHER ARTICLE REFERRING TO "SCOTCH AND SODA" CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBES HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE NEW INTERVENTIONIST "BIG STICK" POLICY BEING URGED BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND LOCAL REALITIES (SEE USIS MANAGUA TRANSLATION).

2. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA ON MARCH 5 FRONT PAGES STORY BASED ON
ERRONEOUS AP REPORT THAT SEVILLA SACASA WAS CALLED IN BY SECTY. VANCE
IN THE MIDST OF GROWING INDICATIONS OF CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

3. MARCH 6 NOVEDADES REFERS TO "ROUTINE" MEETING OF PRESIDENT
WITH SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS DURING WHICH HE INFORMED THEM
REGARDING THE DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED AGAINST THE GON
AND IN PARTICULAR AGAINST THE NATIONAL GUARD. THE ARTICLE STATES HE
INFORMED THE COMMANDERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF "MAINTAINING THE
GUARANTEES, PEACE AND TRANQUILITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITHIN THE
CONSTITUTED LAWS."

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT CENSORSHIP HAS NOT BEEN USED TO
ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF EXTERNAL CRITICISM OF GON HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY AS OPPOSED TO INTERNAL CRITCISM OF INTERNAL CRITICISM
(E.G.N PUBLICATION OF THE BISHOP'S PASTORAL MESSAGE) IS INTERES-
TING. THE GON CAN CHARACTERIZE RIDING OR OR OTHER FOREIGNERS AS
UNAWARE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND ANTI-NICARAGUAN. THE SAME CHARATERI-
ZATION COULD NOT BE USED AGAINST WELL-KNOWN NICARAGUAN CRITICS OF
THE GOVERNMENT.
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Message Attributes

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